

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image reading apparatus capable of performing a read-while-feed operation in which an original is read while being fed by an image sensor  
5 placed at a fixed position, comprising:

a detector adapted to detect presence/absence of dust and/or dirt on a platen; and

a controller adapted to inhibit the read-while-feed operation in a case where dust and/or dirt are  
10 detected at all of a plurality of predetermined positions by said detector, notify the presence of dust and/or dirt via a notification unit, and allow the read-while-feed operation when removal of dust and/or dirt on the platen is detected in a state that the  
15 read-while-feed operation is inhibited.

2. The image reading apparatus according to claim 1 further comprising an operation unit adapted to designate to clean the platen,

20 wherein said controller determines that dust and/or dirt on the platen is removed when cleaning of the platen is designated from the operation unit.

3. The image reading apparatus according to  
25 claim 1 further comprising a document feeder for feeding an original to the platen,

wherein said controller determines that dust

and/or dirt on the platen is removed in response to an opening operation of the document feeder.

4. The image reading apparatus according to  
5 claim 1, wherein when said detector does not detect  
dust and/or dirt at least at one of the plurality of  
predetermined positions, said controller controls to  
perform the read-while-feed operation at the position  
where no dust or dirt is detected.

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5. The image reading apparatus according to  
claim 1, wherein said controller controls said detector  
to perform detection after a read-while-feed operation.

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6. The image reading apparatus according to  
claim 1, wherein if said detector detects dust or dirt  
at all of the plurality of predetermined positions,  
said controller notifies the presence of the dust or  
dirt on the platen via the notification unit right

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after the detection.

7. The image reading apparatus according to  
claim 1, wherein if said detector detects dust or dirt  
at all of the plurality of predetermined positions,  
25 said controller notifies the presence of the dust or  
dirt on the platen via the notification unit in advance  
of a reading operation of an original.

8. The image reading apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the notification unit comprises a display device, and the apparatus further comprises an operation unit adapted to designate to clear the displayed notification of the presence of the dust or dirt.

9. The image reading apparatus according to claim 5 further comprising a memory adapted to, when said detector does not detect dust and/or dirt at least at one of the plurality of predetermined positions, store the position having no dust or dirt,

wherein said controller controls to perform the read-while-feed operation at the stored position.

10. The image reading apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said apparatus is capable of performing a stationary reading operation in which an original is held at a fixed position on the platen and read while moving an image sensor,

and wherein if said detector detects dust or dirt at all of the plurality of predetermined positions, said controller sets to perform the stationary reading operation.

11. The image reading apparatus according to

claim 1, wherein said controller turns on a flag  
indicative of inhibition of the read-while-feed  
operation upon inhibiting the read-while-feed operation,  
and turns off the flag upon allowing the read-while-  
5 feed operation.

12. The image reading apparatus according to  
claim 11 further comprising a flag determination unit  
for determining on/off of the flag indicative of  
10 inhibition of the read-while-feed operation,

wherein said apparatus is capable of performing a  
stationary reading operation in which an original is  
held at a fixed position on the platen and read while  
moving an image sensor,

15 and wherein said controller controls to perform  
the stationary reading operation when said flag  
determination unit determines that the flag is on, and  
controls to perform the read-while-feed operation when  
said flag determination unit determines that the flag  
20 is off.

13. The image reading apparatus according to  
claim 1 further comprising an operation unit adapted to  
designate disabling of said detector,

25 wherein said controller disables said detector in  
response to the designation by said operation unit.

14. The image reading apparatus according to claim 1 further comprising a size detector adapted to detect a size of an original,

wherein plural sets of positions are prepared for  
5 different sizes of originals to be read as said plurality of predetermined positions, and said controller controls said detector to perform the detection at a plurality of predetermined positions depending upon the detected size of the original.

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15. An image reading apparatus capable of performing a read-while-feed operation in which an original is read while being fed by an image sensor placed at a fixed position, comprising:

15 a detector adapted to detect presence/absence of dust and/or dirt on a platen;

a controller adapted to inhibit the read-while-feed operation in a case where said detector detects dust and/or dirt at all of a plurality of predetermined  
20 positions, and, in a case where said detector does not detect dust and/or dirt at least at one of the plurality of predetermined positions, control to perform the read-while-feed operation at the position where no dust or dirt is detected; and

25 an operation unit adapted to designate disabling of said detector,

wherein said controller disables said detector in

response to the designation by said operation unit.

16. An image reading apparatus capable of performing a read-while-feed operation in which an  
5 original is read while being fed by an image sensor placed at a fixed position, comprising:

a detector adapted to detect presence/absence of dust and/or dirt on a platen; and

a controller adapted to inhibit the read-while-  
10 feed operation in a case where said detector detects dust and/or dirt at all of a plurality of predetermined positions, and, in a case where said detector does not detect dust and/or dirt at least at one of the plurality of predetermined positions, control to  
15 perform the read-while-feed operation at the position where no dust or dirt is detected,

wherein plural sets of positions are prepared for different sizes of originals to be read as said plurality of predetermined positions, and said  
20 controller controls said detector to perform the detection at a plurality of predetermined positions set in accordance with the size of the original.

17. The image reading apparatus according to  
25 claim 16, wherein said controller controls said detector to perform detection after a read-while-feed operation.

18. The image reading apparatus according to claim 16 further comprising a notification unit for notifying presence of dust or dirt on the platen if said detector detects dust or dirt at all of the plurality of predetermined positions.

19. The image reading apparatus according to claim 18, wherein if said detector detects dust or dirt at all of the plurality of predetermined positions, said notification unit notifies the presence of the dust or dirt on the platen right after the detection.

20. The image reading apparatus according to claim 18, wherein if said detector detects dust or dirt at all of the plurality of predetermined positions, said notification unit notifies the presence of the dust or dirt on the platen in advance of a reading operation of an original.

21. The image reading apparatus according to claim 18, wherein the notification unit comprises a display device, and the apparatus further comprises an operation unit adapted to designate to clear the displayed notification of the presence of the dust or dirt.

22. The image reading apparatus according to claim 16 further comprising a memory adapted to, when said detector does not detect dust and/or dirt at least at one of the plurality of predetermined positions,  
5 store the position having no dust or dirt in relation with a size of a document detected by said size detector,

wherein said controller controls to perform the read-while-feed operation at the stored position.  
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23. The image reading apparatus according to claim 16, wherein said apparatus is capable of performing a stationary reading operation in which an original is held at a fixed position on the platen and  
15 read while moving an image sensor,

and wherein if said detector detects dust or dirt at all of the plurality of predetermined positions, said controller sets to perform the stationary reading operation.  
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24. The image reading apparatus according to claim 16, wherein said controller turns on a flag indicative of inhibition of the read-while-feed operation upon inhibiting the read-while-feed operation,  
25 and turns off the flag upon allowing the read-while-feed operation.



25. The image reading apparatus according to claim 24 further comprising a flag determination unit for determining on/off of the flag indicative of inhibition of the read-while-feed operation,

5 wherein said apparatus is capable of performing a stationary reading operation in which an original is held at a fixed position on the platen and read while moving an image sensor,

and wherein said controller controls to perform  
10 the stationary reading operation when said flag determination unit determines that the flag is on, and controls to perform the read-while-feed operation when said flag determination unit determines that the flag is off.

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26. A control method for controlling an image reading apparatus capable of performing a read-while-feed operation in which an original is read while being fed by an image sensor placed at a fixed position,  
20 comprising:

detecting presence/absence of dust and/or dirt on a platen;

inhibiting the read-while-feed operation in a case where dust and/or dirt are detected at all of a  
25 plurality of predetermined positions;

notifying the presence of dust and/or dirt via a notification unit in a case where dust and/or dirt are

detected at all of a plurality of predetermined positions;

determining whether or not dust and/or dirt on the platen is removed in a state that the read-while-  
5 feed operation is inhibited; and

allowing the read-while-feed operation when removal of dust and/or dirt on the platen is determined.

27. The control method according to claim 26,  
10 wherein the image reading apparatus comprises an operation unit adapted to designate to clean the platen,  
wherein it is determined that dust and/or dirt on the platen is removed when cleaning of the platen is designated from the operation unit.

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28. The control method according to claim 26,  
wherein the image reading apparatus comprises a document feeder for feeding an original to the platen,  
wherein it is determined that dust and/or dirt on  
20 the platen is removed in response to an opening operation of the document feeder.

29. The control method according to claim 26 further comprising controlling, when no dust or dirt is  
25 detected at least at one of the plurality of predetermined positions, to perform the read-while-feed operation at the position where no dust or dirt is

detected.

30. The control method according to claim 26,  
wherein the detection of dust and/or dirt is performed  
5 after a read-while-feed operation.

31. The control method according to claim 26,  
wherein the notification of the presence of the dust or  
dirt on the platen is performed right after the  
10 detection.

32. The control method according to claim 26,  
wherein the notification of the presence of the dust or  
dirt on the platen is performed in advance of a reading  
15 operation of an original.

33. The control method according to claim 26,  
wherein the notification of the presence of the dust or  
dirt on the platen comprises displaying, and the image  
20 reading apparatus comprises an operation unit adapted  
to designate to clear the displayed notification of the  
presence of the dust or dirt.

34. The control method according to claim 30  
25 further comprising:

storing, when no dust or dirt is detected at  
least at one of the plurality of predetermined

positions, the position having no dust or dirt; and  
controlling to perform the read-while-feed  
operation at the stored position.

5           35. The control method according to claim 26,  
wherein the image reading apparatus is capable of  
performing a stationary reading operation in which an  
original is held at a fixed position on the platen and  
read while moving an image sensor,  
10           further comprising setting, if dust or dirt is  
detected at all of the plurality of predetermined  
positions, to perform the stationary reading operation.

          36. The control method according to claim 26  
15   further comprising:  
          turning on a flag indicative of inhibition of the  
read-while-feed operation upon inhibiting the read-  
while-feed operation; and  
          turning off the flag upon allowing the read-  
20   while-feed operation.

          37. The control method according to claim 36,  
wherein the image reading apparatus is capable of  
performing a stationary reading operation in which an  
25   original is held at a fixed position on the platen and  
read while moving an image sensor, further comprising:  
          determining on/off of the flag indicative of

inhibition of the read-while-feed operation;

controlling to perform the stationary reading operation when the flag is on; and

controlling to perform the read-while-feed  
5 operation when the flag is off.

38. The control method according to claim 26,  
wherein the image reading apparatus comprises an  
operation unit adapted to designate skipping the  
10 detection of dust and/or dirt,

further comprising skipping the detection of dust  
and/or dirt in response to the designation by said  
operation unit.

39. The control method according to claim 26  
15 further comprising detecting a size of an original,  
wherein plural sets of positions are prepared for  
different sizes of originals to be read as said  
plurality of predetermined positions, and the detection  
20 of dust and/or dirt is performed at a plurality of  
predetermined positions depending upon the detected  
size of the original.

40. A control method for controlling an image  
25 reading apparatus capable of performing a read-while-  
feed operation in which an original is read while being  
fed by an image sensor placed at a fixed position,

comprising:

detecting presence/absence of dust and/or dirt on  
a platen;

inhibiting the read-while-feed operation in a  
5 case where dust and/or dirt are detected at all of a  
plurality of predetermined positions; and

controlling, in a case where no dust or dirt is  
detected at least at one of the plurality of  
predetermined positions, to perform the read-while-feed  
10 operation at the position where no dust or dirt is  
detected;

wherein the image reading apparatus comprises an  
operation unit adapted to designate skipping the  
detection of dust and/or dirt, and the detection of  
15 dust and/or dirt is skipped in response to the  
designation by said operation unit.

41. A control method for controlling an image  
reading apparatus capable of performing a read-while-  
20 feed operation in which an original is read while being  
fed by an image sensor placed at a fixed position,  
comprising:

detecting presence/absence of dust and/or dirt on  
a platen;

25 inhibiting the read-while-feed operation in a  
case where dust and/or dirt are detected at all of a  
plurality of predetermined positions; and

performing, in a case where no dust or dirt is detected at least at one of the plurality of predetermined positions, the read-while-feed operation at the position where no dust or dirt is detected,

5        wherein plural sets of positions are prepared for different sizes of originals to be read as said plurality of predetermined positions, and the detection of dust and/or dirt is performed at a plurality of predetermined positions set in accordance with the size  
10 of the original.

42.    The control method according to claim 41, wherein the detection of dust and/or dirt is performed after a read-while-feed operation.

15        43.    The control method according to claim 41, further comprising notifying presence of dust or dirt on the platen if dust or dirt are detected at all of the plurality of predetermined positions.

20        44.    The control method according to claim 43, wherein the notification of the presence of the dust or dirt on the platen is performed right after the detection.

25        45.    The control method according to claim 18, wherein the notification of the presence of the dust or

dirt on the platen is performed in advance of a reading operation of an original

46. The control method according to claim 18,  
5 wherein the notification of the presence of the dust or dirt on the platen comprises displaying, and the image reading apparatus comprises an operation unit adapted to designate to clear the displayed notification of the presence of the dust or dirt.

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47. The control method according to claim 41 further comprising:

storing, when no dust or dirt is detected at least at one of the plurality of predetermined  
15 positions, the position having no dust or dirt in relation with a detected size of a document; and

controlling to perform the read-while-feed operation at the stored position.

20 48. The control method according to claim 41, wherein the image reading apparatus is capable of performing a stationary reading operation in which an original is held at a fixed position on the platen and read while moving an image sensor,

25 further comprising setting, if dust or dirt is detected at all of the plurality of predetermined positions, to perform the stationary reading operation.



49. The control method according to claim 41 further comprising:

turning on a flag indicative of inhibition of the  
5 read-while-feed operation upon inhibiting the read-while-feed operation; and

turning off the flag upon allowing the read-while-feed operation.

10 50. The control method according to claim 49, wherein the image reading apparatus is capable of performing a stationary reading operation in which an original is held at a fixed position on the platen and read while moving an image sensor, further comprising:

15 determining on/off of the flag indicative of inhibition of the read-while-feed operation;

controlling to perform the stationary reading operation when the flag is on; and

20 controlling to perform the read-while-feed operation when the flag is off.

51. A computer program product comprising a computer usable medium having computer readable program code means embodied in said medium for a control method  
25 for controlling an image reading apparatus capable of performing a read-while-feed operation in which an original is read while being fed by an image sensor

placed at a fixed position said product including:

first computer readable program code means for detecting presence/absence of dust and/or dirt on a platen;

5 second computer readable program code means for inhibiting the read-while-feed operation in a case where dust and/or dirt are detected at all of a plurality of predetermined positions;

10 third computer readable program code means for notifying the presence of dust and/or dirt via a notification unit in a case where dust and/or dirt are detected at all of a plurality of predetermined positions;

15 fourth computer readable program code means for determining whether or not dust and/or dirt on the platen is removed in a state that the read-while-feed operation is inhibited; and

20 fifth computer readable program code means for allowing the read-while-feed operation when removal of dust and/or dirt on the platen is determined.

52. A computer program product comprising a computer usable medium having computer readable program code means embodied in said medium for a control method  
25 for controlling an image reading apparatus capable of performing a read-while-feed operation in which an original is read while being fed by an image sensor

placed at a fixed position said product including:

first computer readable program code means for detecting presence/absence of dust and/or dirt on a platen;

5 second computer readable program code means for inhibiting the read-while-feed operation in a case where dust and/or dirt are detected at all of a plurality of predetermined positions; and

10 third computer readable program code means for controlling, in a case where no dust or dirt is detected at least at one of the plurality of predetermined positions, to perform the read-while-feed operation at the position where no dust or dirt is detected;

15 wherein the image reading apparatus comprises an operation unit adapted to designate skipping the detection of dust and/or dirt, and the detection of dust and/or dirt is skipped in response to the designation by said operation unit.

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53. A computer program product comprising a computer usable medium having computer readable program code means embodied in said medium for a control method for controlling an image reading apparatus capable of  
25 performing a read-while-feed operation in which an original is read while being fed by an image sensor placed at a fixed position said product including:

first computer readable program code means for detecting presence/absence of dust and/or dirt on a platen;

second computer readable program code means for  
5 inhibiting the read-while-feed operation in a case where dust and/or dirt are detected at all of a plurality of predetermined positions; and

third computer readable program code means for performing, in a case where no dust or dirt is detected  
10 at least at one of the plurality of predetermined positions, the read-while-feed operation at the position where no dust or dirt is detected,

wherein plural sets of positions are prepared for different sizes of originals to be read as said  
15 plurality of predetermined positions, and the detection of dust and/or dirt is performed at a plurality of predetermined positions set in accordance with the size of the original.